emerging business opportunities in this sector. Responding to the new products and innovative delivery channels used by the competitors, public sector banks have geared themselves by using Information Technology in their day-to-day operations, by improving customer service and by offering innovative and technology based value added services such as establishing customer grievances redressal mechanism, setting up of 24 hours customer helplines, providing technology based value added services like internet banking, mobile banking, ATM/debit cards, etc.

(c) During the year 2005-06, the share of PSBs in the growth of the deposits and advances of SCBs, as a whole, is 56.88% and 68.87% respectively.

Outstanding loans to the CPSEs

950. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount of outstanding loans to the CPSEs converted into equity as part of the revival recommended by BRPSE during the last two years;

(b) the details of the fresh equity infusion into CPSEs as part of revival;

(c) what is the current worth of Government's fresh equity investment and converted equity during the last two years;

(d) whether the worth has gone down, if so, the comparative worth; and

(e) if not, how much dividend have Government earned over last two years over such equity in the CPSEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ideal inflation rate

†951. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards Reddy's statement which state that 3 per cent inflation rate is ideal;

(b) if so, whether Government agree with the opinion of the Governor of Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for considering 3 per cent inflation rate as ideal?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Governor, Reserve Bank of India has expressed the view that

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

for smoother global integration domestic inflation should ideally and optimally be close to three per cent which is the average medium term rate prevailing in industrialized countries. Though the containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government, it has not set any target for inflation.

Assessment of inflation

†952. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Consumer Price Index is considered as the ground for acute assessment of inflation in most of the countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the Wholesale Price Index has been made the basis for this purpose in India instead of Consumer Price Index;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is a difference between the rates of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. In India currently there are four Consumer Price Indices, but all these indices are specific to a particular class. There is as yet no common consumer price index. Wholesale Price Index with wider commodity coverage is, therefore, used to measure headline inflation. Month wise details of year-on-year inflation rates based on four consumer price indices and the wholesale price index during current financial year are indicated in the Table below.

Year-on-year inflation rates in per cent
(April 2007 to June 2007)

Type	WPI	CPI(IW)	CPI(UNME)	CPI(AL)	CPI(RL)
BASE	93-94	1982	84-85	86-87	86-87
APR	6.28	6.67	7.74	9.44	9.12
MAY	5.46	6.61	6.79	8.22	7.90
JUNE	4.38*	5.69	6.08	7.84	7.53

* Provisional

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.